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9. Hawke  
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PATENT

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GROUP 1700

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Pierre Bierre et al.

Serial No.: 09/223,347 ✓

Filed: December 30, 1998 ✓

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR UNIVERSAL  
IDENTIFICATION OF BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES ✓

: Group Art Unit: 1743 ✓

: Examiner: LaToya I. Cross ✓

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the non-final Office Action mailed on October 23, 2002, the period for response to which has been extended by one (1) month, kindly amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please rewrite the paragraph which appears at page 11, lines 12-19 of the specification to read as follows:

IN  
E1

In one or more embodiments of the invention, the markings 24 define a surface or area having a specular reflectance which differs from that of a surrounding outer surface 22 of the container 24. The term "specular reflectance" refers to the characteristic of a material to reflect light from a source in a direct, rather than a diffuse manner. The terms "higher" or "greater" specular